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## Time-Tested Stamina

**T**HE men in Washington have not yet got over their surprise. They were wont to manipulate governments and overthrow regimes in that fragile and needy Third World. A few million dollars, a CIA stunt, and the trick was pulled. American lives were not involved, and the honour of the US government was not at stake.

Now, against a government which is apparently as frail and imprudent as so many others, Washington has staked its honour, worse still, its major strategic trumpcard. For four years, from 1954 to 1958, the US command hurled against the DRVN its most up-to-date aircraft — Thunderchiefs, Phantoms, swing-wing F-111As, B-52s — its heavy cruisers equipped with 16-inch guns, its most sophisticated bombs. For four years, the US government resigned itself to being pilloried by world public opinion. But neither the government nor the regime of the DRVN flinched.

In this month of September, while the DRVN observes the 24th anniversary of its founding, the Washington leaders must be pondering over the secret of such extra staying power. They must remember that in September 1945, while famine was on the rampage and the DRVN government had in its coffers a bare 1,250-720 piasters, American emissaries vainly tried to seduce it with an offer of technical and financial aid. Then, through a 200,000-strong occupation army under the banner of Chiang

Kai-shek, Washington wanted to subvert it, thinking it not yet firmly established. This, too, was to no avail. US considerable financial and material help to the French colonialists with a view to doing away with the DRVN was also ineffectual. In 1964, American armed forces had to take a direct part in the game: again no result was achieved. And while American presidents came and went, the DRVN government, the one of 1945, remains at the helm. In Paris, Minister Xuan Thuy, completely relaxed, composing a poem once in a while, faces American negotiators serenely. In Washington, Presidents Johnson and Nixon are plagued by insomnia while in Hanoi Premier Pham Van Dong placidly talks with writers about the purity of the Vietnamese language, and with archaeologists, whose excavations continue, about the origins of the Vietnamese people.

This serenity is the gauge of the strength of the regime. Not that problems are lacking. The government had rejected dollar offers in 1945, not because it was rich, but because it had something it prized more than dollars. It defeated the French expeditionary corps not because it had troops and weapons in profusion but because it had in hand something much more effective than weapons. It held in check American air and naval forces not because it had better guns and planes but because its defences possess many other assets besides MIGs and SAMs.

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September 2, 1969

24th FOUNDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE D.R.V.N.

*South Viet Nam*



Target: a US military base

Da Nang Front:

## SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS AGAINST TWO US MARINE REGIMENTAL C.P.s



*In the Hanoi Engineering Plant*

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LONG LIVE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

At the 32nd plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam the representatives of the Vietnamese people, Mr. Xuan Thuy (DRVN government) and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh (RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government) strongly criticized the August 23 Nixon decision to postpone the withdrawal of some US troops from South Viet Nam. The DRVN envoy said that the three conditions laid down by the Nixon administration for any withdrawal of US troops were in fact schemes to prolong the aggressive war and the partition of Viet Nam. Its August 23 decision showed that these conditions were only aimed at justifying its refusal to

aggression and wrest back independence and freedom will remain unshakable, and Nixon's decision will only expose him further to condemnation by US progressives and world opinion.

Concerning the recent "cabinet reshuffle" in Saigon, Mr. Xuan Thuy and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh stressed that the appointment of Tran Thien Khiem as "Prime Minister" highlighted the militarist, dictatorial and warlike character of the clique of Saigon agents of American imperialism. It provided a further proof of US rulers' pertinacity in the use of puppets to counter the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace, independence and neutrality.

## Again on "Vietnamization" of the War

DO XUAN SANG

NIXON has put into practice the strategy of the Republican convention under a new name: "Vietnamization" sounds better than "de-Americanization" and would help better hawk the American people, and its own promoters to begin with.

### AN INTERESTING CALCULATION

VAN Fleet who applied the "Use Asians against Asians" device in the war of aggression in Korea, reckoned that with the same fire-power, the maintenance of a South Korean division cost from ten to fifteen times less than an American division. The yellow cannon-fodder is thus cheaper than the American bayonet accustomed to nourishing and plentiful rations, and a sophisticated and cumbersome equipment. The logistic services would heavily on the US military potential; from six to eight non-combatants to serve a soldier in the frontline.

In South Viet Nam, the losses of the US expeditionary corps are "admissible." According to US official sources, whose least preoccupation is objectivity, from January 1, 1961 to mid-August 1969, 234,000 GIs were put out of action (dead and wounded), 956 reported missing and 345 taken prisoners, or a total of 234,998. The non-declared war in Viet Nam has thus become the second most costly war.

From 1961 to 1969, it cost the US officially at least one hundred billion dollars, not including secret or indirect appropriations and the after-effects to be dealt with for long years to come: allowance for the wounded and disabled and for the widows and orphans of war-dead, etc.

For the fiscal year 1968-1969, the US Congress has earmarked wellnigh 30 billion dollars, which is enormous

even for a big economic and financial power as the US. This equals the annual national income of Canada and nearly half that of Great Britain. In the US, the crusade against poverty received only 1.75 billion dollars in the same fiscal year.

"Vietnamization" of the war would curtail expenditure a great deal, stop the flight of dollars abroad and would reduce American toll to an "admissible" level for the Republican administration has never had the intention to withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam, nor to dismantle all US bases there. A saving of some billion dollars would enable Nixon to hold out and look forward to the 1970 elections with less pessimism.

"Vietnamization," in Nixon's mind, is not aimed at "de-Americanization," but quite the contrary: achievement of US neo-colonialism at cheap price.

### FROM DREAM TO REALITY

VIETNAMIZATION, "well, be it so, but where to find Vietnamese trainers to the country capable of efficiently playing the role of local leaders? This is a real headache for the Yankee aggressors who have many a time lamented for the Diem brothers sacrificed in 1963. The latter were at least true placemen, mini-dictators, while the present rulers in Saigon are but tinhorn tyrants. Johnson had much trouble to harness to the same troika the pig-headed "musketeers" Nguyen Van Thieu, Nguyen Ky and Tran Van Huong. However, as one knows, there is no love lost between Nguyen Ky and his elder Nguyen Van Thieu.

Nguyen Van Thieu and Tran Van Huong have put up with each other for fifteen months and the pitcher then often goes to the well gets broken at last. The August 22 communiqué of the puppet regime revealed that agreement had been reached between these two topmost quillings for Thieu to appoint as discreet members of the future Cabinet. The tension between them reflected the conflicts in the Saigon "Congress" where young turks came to blow about their own ideas at one another and called each other speculators and thieves. In that "Parliament" the "National, democratic and Social Front," patched up by Nguyen Van Thieu with the "backstabbers and instigators" for the Americans, has no more the six member parties, more than... six followers!

The Yankees must draw some lesson from the fiasco of the puppet administration. They must understand that under the impact of the impetuous movement of national liberation, in a world where the relations of forces have changed in favour of the socialist camp and the democratic and peace forces, there can be no more down-right and efficient mercenaries capable of rallying even an appreciable section of the people!

### AND THE SAIGON ARMY?

THERE remains the puppet army, the supreme hope and consolation of the White House. Already at the time of Ngo Dinh Diem it was speculated that the only viable and efficient organization in South Viet Nam was the army.

It does exist and makes on paper a nice parade of ten infantry divisions, an airborne division, twenty battalions, 16,000 airmen with many hundred fighter and transport planes and a flotilla of many sea-going vessels and river craft manned by a 24,000-strong crew including six marine infantry battalions.

Saigon build-up theoretically runs to over 300,000 men, of whom 400,000 belong to the regular army.

But how many "dead ends" there are in this multitude? It is 30 per cent as pretended J. Anderson in the magazine *Parade* (June 7, 1969) or more than that. The US press speaks of 11,000 deserters per month and that figure on the upgrade.

How much is worth the morale of such soldiers who fight against the fundamental rights of their own Fatherland and members of their families living in the liberated zone which accounts for four-fifths of the total area of South Viet Nam? Of course, not so much, if not such.

Such an army, trounced by the PLA, has required the dispatch to South Viet Nam of half a million GIs, and in command, the real dust, even with the cooperation and assistance of the best American divisions. How can it withstand the shock and finally win the day when it is on its own?

"VIETNAMIZATION" of the war is just like squaring the circle, i.e. a pipe dream that will never be realized in reality. It is not possible, logically speaking, to "Vietnamize" the war against the American imperialists. For the Yankees who pride themselves on their pragmatism, there is only one solution: go home!

## THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

## Some Figures

From February 7, 1965 to November 1, 1968, North Viet Nam shot down more than two US planes a day (or 71.8 a month), sank or fired ablaze more than three enemy naval craft a month, on an average.

The share of industry in the gross industrial and agricultural output growing: 17.2 per cent in 1955, 41.8 in 1960, 49.5 in 1967.

Between 1965 and 1967, 1,105 industrial undertakings built by the local authorities were put into commission, i.e. more than one enterprise a day on an average.

From 1965 to 1967, 1,105 industrial undertakings built by the local administrations were put into operation, among which 224 turning out engineering motors and metal products, 233 making building materials, 205 producing foodstuffs and 21 dealing with printing and cultural articles.

To date, North Viet Nam has had about 1,000 centrally and locally run enterprises and about 2,000 hand-craft cooperatives.

Agricultural cooperatives are serviced by nearly 6,300 small engineering stations and 8,300 smithy and carpentry units.

In 1960, 85.8 per cent of labouring peasant households joined cooperatives and in 1967, 93.7 per cent. In 1968, 92 per cent of households were in high-level cooperatives.

1966: 2,029 cooperatives were serviced by 6,350 generators (powered by electricity, oil, steam) and 5,588 machines (pumps, threshers, grinders, cutters).

1967: 4,655 cooperatives were serviced by 6,350 generators and 9,462 mechanized implements.

In 1966, Thinh Binh province reaped 5 tons of paddy per hectare from its two-crop ricefields.

In 1967, Thinh Binh and Hamoi brought in 3 tons.

Between 1964 and 1967, 2 districts got 3 tons during four consecutive years, 2 district more than 5 tons during three consecutive years.

In 1968, out of the 2,531 cooperatives producing more than 3 tons, 315 obtained between 6 and 8 tons, 49 between 7 and 8 tons, and 3 more than 8 tons.

In 1939, only 21 out of 1,000 people went to school, mostly in primary schools; only 3 out of 100 people attended university.

thick of the fight!"

These words made a deep impression on her.

At noon, two F-4s roared in. Khue's heart went pit-a-pat. Was she scared? No. She calmly anticipated the development of the fight: "How would the enemy plane nose dive? When should I order to fire?" She realized that she had come to an actual job, things were quite different than when she was only watching her deputy.

An F-4 nose-dived. No shot was heard, as she did not hear the signal to fire. Her mind raced at her reproachfully. She had only herself to thank for it. As the second jet was dive-bombing, she shouted: "Fire!" Too late. The shots missed the tail of the plane which hurriedly flew away with a jerk of the wing. Disappointed, she said to her men most candidly: "As a G.I. I am still a green horn. You help me with your advice so that we shall do better in our next mission."

She expected vitriolic criticism. But nothing happened. Her comrades, including those who had ironically called her "the lady commander," said gently: "We were wide of the mark because your order came when the enemy was already too low. So you knew now!"

To cover the party on the move, Khue ordered her boys to zero in on the two planes when they were still low. These dropped their bombloads at random and took to flight. She was overjoyed as readily had been hurt. But some minutes later, two F-4s thundered in. Realizing that the gun site had been detected, she asked her assistant to stay behind with some of his mates to cover

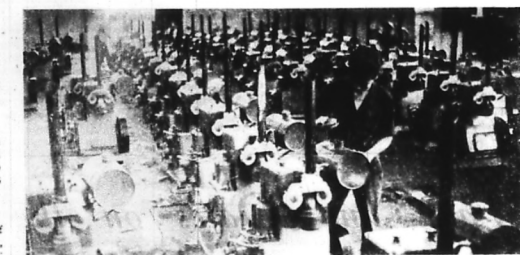
In 1968, 189 out of 1,000 people learnt in general education schools and 34 out of 10,000 people studied in higher education establishments.

The pupil body increased 7.8 times as compared with 1959, while the students enrolment 114 times.

In 1939, there were only one physician per 100,000 people whereas in 1967 there were 7 per 10,000 people, i.e. 70 times over.



Local industry in Nam Ha province: Production of bolts in an engineering workshop essential to the countryside.



Diesel motors produced by the Tran Hung Dan Engineering Plant for agricultural cooperatives.

## A YOUNG MILITIA WOMAN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

Truong Thi Khue, a 23-year-old girl, deputy commander of the people's militia unit of T. village, Vinh Linh area, has just been commended as heroine of the people's armed forces. Here is the story of the first battle she fought as head of the AAC team in her village, an assignment she got three years ago. - Editor

KHUE followed with a keen eye the evolutions of an L-10 reconnaissance plane. Perhaps it had been able to spot the gun emplacement because of a camouflage defect. After consulting with her mates, she made up her mind to move the guns to a spot side. Next morning, guided by a spotter, two A-1s darted in over the first site. The militiamen who were digging a trench nearby rushed to the new one.

To cover the party on the move, Khue ordered her boys to zero in on the two planes when they were still low. These dropped their bombloads at random and took to flight. She was overjoyed as readily had been hurt. But some minutes later, two F-4s thundered in. Realizing that the gun site had been detected, she asked her assistant to stay behind with some of his mates to cover

the bulk of the unit who was shifting with her to another place. And this move was also spotted. "There was no time to waste. Let's go into action," she said to herself. She looked all around and told her mates to open fire, using the bodies of the ones to support the guns of the others. She took over the first battery and fired a shot as signal. A deafening salvo was heard. An A-1B was hit and turned tail. The battle lasted from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain of bombs and shrapnel poured around the gunners who calmly beat off the enemy strikes, giving the inhabitants and a militia unit nearby an adequate protection.

Since the end of summer 1968, chiefly since the declaration of limited bombing of the North, the enemy concentrated his raid on the southern provinces of the DRVN. Khue's hamlet was

hard hit: her snug little wooden house was completely destroyed - together with over one hundred jack fruit trees which no longer gave out their fragrance. Her father and little son were killed by bombs. She heard an inner voice urging her to avenge them and her co-villagers.

In the course of three years of fighting, the AAC team of T. village grappled four enemy planes, its coordination with army units resulted in the downing of nine other aircraft and the capture of four American pilots.

Truong Thi Khue has fought nearly 40 actions. A good deputy militia commander and a good co-op farmer, she has been credited with a substantial contribution to the success of her village - one on the 17th parallel - in production and combat.

## 32nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 28, 1969)

## US Trick behind Nixon's Postpone-ment of Troop Pull-Out Bared

pull out its expeditionary troops from South Viet Nam.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh recalled that the pretext invoked by Nixon was the South Vietnamese people's and armed forces' stepped-up assaults on the US aggressors. This was but a manoeuvre to pressure the South Vietnamese into curtailing their activities and leaving the US aggressors free to commit more crimes in South Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam PRG negotiator said. But, she added, the South Vietnamese people's will to oppose US

it would render more difficult a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem consistent with the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded his speech by reasserting the resolve of the whole Vietnamese nation to carry on the struggle and devote all its moral and material forces to the preservation of their independence and freedom, as made clear by President Ho Chi Minh on Sept. 2, 1945 (DRVN Declaration of Independence).

## Time-Tested Stamina

(Continued from page 1)

The problems are immense and of unprecedented complexity: war efforts, reconstruction, setting up of new social structures, struggle against natural calamities, scientific and cultural development, diplomacy, etc. But our foreign visitors could see the crowds' calm and the leaders' tranquillity. Whether the war is to last one year or ten years more, whether Mr. Nixon threatens or bluffs, whether the waters of the Red River rise or ebb, the government and people of the DRVN stand ready.

Twenty-four years of struggle for national independence, and fifteen years of socialist building have framed a regime and a people to

face all eventualities. The South Vietnamese struggle for independence and freedom can rely on a strong, flawless, war. While the will for independence draws its strength from a centuries-old history, socialism has instilled new vigour into it. The assistance of the socialist countries and the active support of world opinion and progressive American circles have greatly reinforced a resistance which strikes deep roots into the national soil.

Nobody in Viet Nam, either in the North or in the South, entertains any doubt about the final outcome.

# SOUTH VIET NAM: PRG, NFL, ALLIANCE LAUNCH REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS CALLS

THE Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces have issued appeals on the occasion of the anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and Independence Day (September 2) of Viet Nam.

The appeal of the RSVNPRG highly praised the great achievements of the Vietnamese nation in the past 24 years, first in fighting the French colonialists, to defend independence and then in resisting US aggression, to save the country. After pointing out that the renewal, successive and all-sided setbacks of the US-puppets had forced the US imperialists into "de-Americanizing" the Viet Nam war, the appeal reaffirmed the South Vietnamese people's faithfulness to the spirit of the August Revolution, saying:

"The South Vietnamese people, continuing the tradition of dauntlessness and heroism of the August Revolution and in their resolve to place independence and freedom above all and to prefer death to slavery, will certainly thwart all wicked and perfidious moves of the US-puppets."

Laying stress on international support for South Viet Nam, it said: "The Government warmly thanks the socialist countries, the people and the Government of Cambodia, the Laotian people, and the Laotian Patriotic Front, the peoples and governments of various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the people and international organizations of peace and justice in the whole world including the progressive people in the United States, for their valuable sympathy with, and priceless support and assistance to, the South Vietnamese people in their current struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

The appeal of the NFL Central Committee pointed out that persisting in their aggressive stance, the US imperialists had been pressing absurd claims at the Paris Conference while in Saigon they were seeking to preserve the corrupt Saigon administration, which the entire South Vietnamese people were making every effort to depose.

The appeal said the US must cast off the puppet Saigon administration so that the South Vietnamese people might exercise their right of self-determination.

As made clear in the 10-point overall solution advanced by the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the most sensible way is that after the complete withdrawal of US and satellite troops, free and democratic general elections will be organized by a provisional coalition government to enable the South Vietnamese people to decide their own political regime, without foreign interference, the appeal added.

For its part, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces made it plain that the US aggressors and the Saigon clique of traitors were also the arch-enemy of the South Vietnamese urban population.

It said that in the current general offensive and widespread uprising in South Viet Nam, the townspeople were making giant strides in their all-round effort to drive the aggressors out of their beloved land, oust the Saigon clique of traitors, and bring about the formation a peace cabinet ready to enter into serious talks with the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the NFL endorsed by the Alliance.

"Such is the road to great national unity and that of firm militancy against foreign aggression, the right path blazed for us by the Revolution of August 1945," the appeal of the Alliance said in conclusion.

# Recollections of the August Revolution and Independence Day

THE Viet Minh nation-wide Congress was attended by delegates from all parts of the country, some of whom walked several months to get to it.

The main items in the Congress agenda were:

- To prepare for the general uprising and seize power.
- To cooperate with the Allies when they landed.

Discussion began. But on the evening of that very day, an important news item turned the Congress plans upside down: Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

The following day, the Congress discussed only the first question: the general uprising and seizing power.

The plan for uprising had been prepared long before and there remained only to submit it to the delegates from various regions for reconsideration and improvement, and to appoint the leaders for each region.

A Central Committee assuming the role of a Provisional Government was set up. Ho Chi Minh was unanimously elected President by the Congress.

Work was over by 7 p.m. Immediately the Central Committee held its first meeting.

At midnight the delegates went home with enthusiasm, carrying with them the order for the uprising.

On July 16, 1945, the Viet Minh guerrilla groups left their base to go into action. Before leaving they attended a flag saluting ceremony in which Vo Nguyen Giap, Chairman of the Military Committee, read a declaration.

Ho Chi Minh has never, could not attend the ceremony.

Singing, the guerrilla groups left their base, heartily cheered by the population. The young leader of the groups, Quang Trung, was proudly marching under the red flag with a golden star.

Everywhere from the cities to the countryside, the people rose up and joined the liberation movement.

Viet Minh slogans appeared at every corner side by side with the gold-stared red flags.

"Down with the Japanese fascists!"

"Long live Viet Nam's Independence!"

"Let the whole people join in an armed uprising!"

Everywhere guerrilla groups came into being. They openly got their arms ready: flint-lock rifles, bows, big knives, lances... The women showed no less eagerness than the men. More guerrilla fighters were recruited.

The guerrilla groups began attacking Japanese military posts. The Japanese forces began disintegrating, while the Tran Trong Kim Government\* was collapsing even more rapidly.

The uprising spread from the North to the South.

Red flags with golden stars were seen everywhere—on big buildings and on bamboo huts—in the cities and in the countryside.

The people were longing for the coming of Ho Chi Minh.

Though still sick, Ho Chi Minh decided to join the people in the Capital, but only after that Nguyen had been liberated did he go to Hanoi.

But despite these facts, the French colonialists propagated the lie that Ho Chi Minh was helped by the Japanese and that he was a Japanese agent.

In the delta, Ho suffered much from the sight of the havoc wrought by floods. All around was an immense expanse of water. Courtyards and gardens were flooded. The vast rice fields now looked like a sea. Flood meant starvation. The calamity took place after the plunder of rice by the French and the Japanese in 1944-1945 which had caused a catastrophic famine in the Spring of 1945 with a toll of over two million Viet Namese in North Viet Nam and the northern part of Central Viet Nam.

Ho Chi Minh's first words were, "We must do everything to save the people from poverty and starvation."

In Hanoi, the Provisional Government held a session during which Ho Chi Minh proposed the carrying out of a broad policy of union, to set up a single Government for the whole country comprising the representatives of all patriotic parties, and well-known non-party personalities.

His proposition was unanimously approved, and several Viet Minh members of the Provisional Government voluntarily withdrew to make place for new members who were not Viet Minh.

The first Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam had come into being. Half of the Ministers were not Viet Minh members, as for example Nguyen Manh Ha, of the Catholic faith, Nguyen Van To, a scholar, Vu Trong Khanh, a lawyer, etc...

Ho Chi Minh was unanimously elected President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and was charged with drafting Viet Nam's Declaration of Independence.

After reading the draft resolution to his close collaborators and asking them their opinions — a constant practice of his, which he could obtain criticism of his work — his happiness was great. He said that he had written much during his life but never before had he known the joy of writing such a declaration.

The Declaration of Independence was an offspring of the list of claims Ho Chi Minh had sent to the Versailles Congress in 1919 and of the Viet Minh program he wrote in 1940. Moreover, it was the offspring of declarations written by illustrious predecessors such as Thu Khoa Huan, Phan Dinh Phung, Hoang Hoa Tham, Phan Boi Chau and many others, over a period of more than 80 years.

The Declaration of Independence was the outcome of much bloodshed and many sacrifices of lives by Viet Nam's brave sons and daughters in the prisons and concentration camps, in remote detention islands, on the guillotines and on the battlefields.

The Declaration of Independence was the outcome of long years of the hope, endeavor and faith of over 20 million Vietnamese.

The Declaration of Independence was a glorious page in Viet Nam's history. It put an end to the autocratic monarchic regime and the oppressive colonial rule. It opened the new phase of democratic republic.

Came the 2nd of September, 1945.

On that day the Ho Chi Minh Government was to appear before the people. When President Ho was preparing to go to the ceremony, he found that he had no suitable clothes.

When he arrived in the capital, he had very few clothes, so several people visited the shops to find a suit of clothes for the President. At last they bought a khaki suit and a pair of rubber sandals. It was in this attire that the President appeared before the people.

And there he was, the man who had changed his name a hundred times, engaged in a dozen professions and trades, who had been many times in prison and once condemned to death, the man who had at one time been reported as dead, there he was, the first President of the newly established Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an illustrious Viet Namese, etc...

A journalist who attended the meeting described his impressions as follows:

"The 10th of August was our day when our people in the whole country rose up to seize power."

"The 2nd of September was the day when we told the world that our power had been firmly established."

For the Vietnamese people, September 2nd was a solemn, glorious and happy day.

Most privileged were the people of Hanoi, for the 2nd of September was not only the glorious Independence Day, but also the day when they could see with their own eyes Vietnam's best and dearest son.

The population of Hanoi and of towns and villages in the vicinity poured into Ba Dinh Square in an endless stream, filling the surrounding streets. Altogether there were about a million people. Never before in the history of Viet Nam had there been such a big meeting.

A new national flag, a new national anthem, a new army, a new people, a new Government, a new regime. Over twenty million hearts were beating with the same rhythm.

In the bright autumn sunshine, with a background of clear blue sky, the red flags with golden stars flew proudly in the fresh wind.

But emotion reached its climax on the arrival of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved and respected leader whom the people were seeing for the first time. The people had come to attend the meeting and also to see President Ho.

It was a magnificent scene! A high imposing tribune, brave combatants, and impressive guard of honour, a forest of flags, a long line of cars... A spectacle worthy of the inauguration day of the People's Democratic Power. And the people told themselves that all these things were theirs.

Coming to attend the grand ceremony, everyone expected to see a president, a leader, like those they had seen before. People of course knew they would not see a man attired like a king of ancient times in a royal yellow gown and a belt adorned with pearls, but the person they would see must surely be attired like a national leader in an impeccable dress, with a distinguished gait and an orate speech — in a word a personality with many mannerisms.

The people soon realized that they had been misled by their imagination. When President Ho Chi Minh arrived they found him just simple and cordial.

I saw President Ho Chi Minh from a distance. He wore a faded khaki sun helmet, a pair of rubber sandals and a khaki suit.

When the President began reading the Declaration of Independence, his loud, clear voice reminded me of the remote forests and guerrilla warfare. Enthusiastic applause exploded when he had finished reading one section. He asked amidst cheers:

"Fellow-countrymen, can you hear me distinctly?"

The simple question dispersed what might still separate the President and his people, and created a strong tie uniting the leader and the masses.

The strange question was quite unexpected. The President of the Republic had forsaken all ceremonial and formalities, he had become the Vietnamese people's "Uncle Ho."

"Fellow-countrymen, can you hear me distinctly?" Everyone was deeply moved by the love of President Ho Chi Minh for his people. Everyone felt that the President was just a man like himself, that he was near and accessible, friendly to them, that he belonged to the people, and was a man whose love for the people was boundless.

In answer to the President's question, a million voices thundered, "Yes!" And for me as well as for the others this was the best, the deepest souvenir of that historic Independence Day.

(From Glimpses of the Life of President Ho Chi Minh by Tran Dan Tien)

\* set up by the Japanese.

# Facts and Dates on the August 1945 Revolution and Founding of the DRVN

October 1930

The Political Theses of the Indochinese Communist Party — now the Viet Nam Workers' Party — advocate the education, mobilization and organization of the popular masses, the formation of forces to seize the opportunity to shift the imperialist war into a revolutionary war and to set up the Soviet power of workers and peasants.

November 1939

The 6th session of the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party is held. The resolution passed there points out: "The present imperialist war will speed up the Indochinese revolution; the prospects of the national liberation struggle of the Indochinese peoples are clear and radiant." It recommends "to fight the imperialist war... make preparations to go into action, to carry out the national liberation revolution."

March 27, 1940

Insurrection at Bac Son (Lang Son province): the guerrillas hold control of the situation for nearly one month.

November 23, 1940

Many localities in Nam Ky (now Nam Ky rise up. The uprisings are drowned in blood.

January 13, 1941

Vietnamese soldiers mutiny at the Doi Lung (Nghe An province) garrison.

May 1941

The 8th session of the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party is called and the Viet Nam Independence League (Viet Minh) is set up. In external affairs, the Party and the League decide to unreservedly take the anti-fascist side; in internal affairs, they favour respect of private property, freedom of conscience, equality between the sexes, halt to the implementation of land reform in order to split the landlord class and broaden the unified national front.

March 9-12, 1945

An enlarged conference of the Permanent Bureau of the CG of the Indochinese Communist Party is convened to assess the new situation created by the Japanese coup of March 9, 1945. It elaborates the slogan and forms of propaganda, organization of struggle which will enable the past forward the revolutionary movement. "Be ready to shift over to a general insurrection as soon as the necessary conditions are fulfilled (for instance, after the surrender of the Japanese or on the occasion of a large-scale introduction and powerful advance of Allied forces into our territory), reads the resolution passed on that occasion. And: "Be prepared to cooperate with Allied troops... But we must not regard the landing of Allied forces in Indochina as the sine qua non condition of our general insurrection."

June 4, 1945

A Conference of Viet Minh cadres meet to merge revolutionary powers (people's committees) and streamline the organizations in the liberated areas of the provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Can, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Ha Giang.

August 13-15, 1945

A National Conference of the Indochinese Communist Party's cadres is convened to approve a

project to set up a Committee of Insurrection and orders for the general insurrection prepared by the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party and the Viet Minh League General Committee.

March 12, 1945

A post at Ba To, Quang Ngai province, Central Viet Nam, is taken and a guerrilla base set up there.

April 15-20, 1945

A Revolutionary Military Conference is summoned in Tonkin where military measures are taken to launch the general insurrection all over the country.

June 4, 1945

A Conference of Viet Minh cadres meet to merge revolutionary powers (people's committees) and streamline the organizations in the liberated areas of the provinces of Cao Bang, Bac Can, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Ha Giang.

August 13-15, 1945

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project to set up a Committee of Insurrection and orders for the general insurrection prepared by the Central Committee of the Indochinese Communist Party and the Viet Minh League General Committee.

August 16 and 17, 1945

A National Congress of representatives of various social strata, mass organizations and nationalities throughout the country is called to endorse the project of the Viet Minh League General Committee and establish a National Committee for the Liberation of Viet Nam.

August 10, 1945

The insurrection is successful in Hanoi (North Viet Nam).

August 13, 1945

The insurgents carry the day in Hue — "Imperial city" — in Central Viet Nam.

August 25, 1945

The people seize power in Saigon (South Viet Nam)

August 27, 1945

The Provisional Government of the DRVN is proclaimed.

September 2, 1945

The independence of the DRVN is declared.



## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH GREETES WORLD YOUTH AND STUDENT VIET NAM MEETING

I am very happy to convey warm greetings and sincere thanks to the representatives of the world youth and students who are fighting in support of our people's struggle against US aggression.

Your meeting is a fine manifestation of the zeal and determination of the young generation to achieve its noble ideals of freedom, national independence and peace. It is a source of encouragement to our people in their struggle to defend the Fatherland, a precious contribution to their final victory. It is all the more important at a

time when the Nixon administration persists in intensifying the war of aggression, maintaining the Saigon puppet administration and multiplying its crimes against our people.

The Vietnamese people are ever more resolved to resist until the US stop its aggression, withdraw from South Viet Nam all troops of the US and other foreign countries in the US camp without laying down any condition, and leave the South Vietnamese people decide their own affairs.

I wish your meeting good success.

## "We Are Meeting Here To Show Our Sustained and Resolute Support for Viet Nam"

(Declaration of A. Oliva, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, at the opening session of the "World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese People.")

REPORTS from Helsinki say that the "World Meeting of Youth and Students for the Final Victory of the Vietnamese People" attended by over 600 delegates from 13 international bodies and 174 national organizations of youth and students, opened in Helsinki on August 23, 1969.

Among the guests were Hoang Minh Giam, Minister for Culture of the DRVN, Nguyen Van Tien, deputy-head of the RVSN Provisional Revolutionary Government Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, and Nguyen Minh Vy, advisor to the leader of the DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference.

Thunderous applause greeted the Delegation of DRVN youth and students led by Lau Minh Chau and that of the South Viet Nam Liberation youth and students headed by Tran Van An, as they entered the Meeting Hall.

Finland's Minister of Finance, E. A. Alenius delivered on behalf of his Government the welcome speech. He said:

"The progressive people in Finland will make every possible effort to give material and moral support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for their survival and their future... We assure you that various social strata in Finland want the US to withdraw from South Viet Nam. The US has no right to delay or block the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, Mr. Alenius stressed.

A. Oliva, President of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, outlined the activities of world youth and students in support Viet Nam. He declared:

"We are meeting here to express our support for Viet Nam. We unreservedly side with the Vietnamese fighters. We are certain that the hard struggle conducted by the South Vietnamese people will be crowned with success, on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL. We hail the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RVSN, a historic event for all the progressive forces and a new victory of the Vietnamese fighters."

Oliva speech ended amidst rousing ovations and chants: "Long live Ho Chi Minh!", "Long live Viet Nam!", "Long live NFL!"

The tenor of the opening session of the Meeting was one of militant solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression.

between the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples.

"They have violated very seriously foreign diplomats' immunities and international press regulations."

"We strongly protest and resolutely reject all their charges and denounce to public opinion their blatant provocations against our Embassy."

handcuffed us, and gave us no medical care when we were sick.

"Before setting us free, they also tried to make us sign a prepared declaration admitting that we were connected with espionage activities and were well treated, so as to slander us and cover up their inhumane acts.

"We are glad to say that we successfully faced up to all the tricks of the Vietnamese military authorities. We strongly resisted their illegal coercion and refused to sign any declaration.

"They also faked our signatures in the so-called 'declaration in honor' and 'request to stay in Laos' with a view to deceiving public opinion. They fabricated the story that we had denounced the Vietnamese residents in Laos, using this as a pretext to suppress, persecute and arrest illegally Vietnamese residents who have always been honestly earning their living and respecting the law, manners and customs of the Kingdom of Laos.

"The above acts of the Vietnamese authorities are part of their scheme pursued for many years now to systematically slander and provoke our Embassy, so as to conceal the US intensified interference and aggression against Laos and undermine the time-honoured friendship be-

between the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples. They fabricated the story that we had denounced the Vietnamese residents in Laos, using this as a pretext to suppress, persecute and arrest illegally Vietnamese residents who have always been honestly earning their living and respecting the law, manners and customs of the Kingdom of Laos.

"Only after our release did we know that the Vietnamese authorities had concocted the story about 'the map of Long Cheng base' and charged us with 'espionage activities' in order to expel us. What is strange was that throughout our detention, they never asked us about the so-called 'map of Long Cheng base'."

"They treated us in a most shocking way: they beat us, forced us to sleep on the floor, with neither mosquito net nor mat,

"The Vietnamese authorities engineered a 'car accident' to have a

## DRVN Vientiane Officials Returned to Hanoi after Illegal Detention

SIX officials of the DRVN who had been illegally detained by the Vientiane authorities since August 9, 1969 were returned to Hanoi on August 26 as a result of firm representations and actions.

They were welcomed at the airport by Nguyen Cu Thach, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Le Van Hien, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DRVN to the Kingdom of Laos, Dao Tung, Director General of Viet Nam News Agency, and a big crowd.

The returnees were all pale and tired as a result of 17 days of detention and ill-treatment. One of them, Hoang Nhat Quang, came back in underpants only, all his clothes having been stripped by the Vientiane authorities, while Nguyen Trong Hung, whose shoes were grabbed, was bare-footed. The belongings of others, including money, wrist-watches, fountain pens, etc., had been taken away by the Vientiane administration, and they had to fly back in their only rolled suit left.

After a medical check-up, the doctors announced that the health of the six DRVN officials was seriously impaired. They made a statement at the airport some extracts of which follow:

"The Vietnamese authorities

SOUTH VIET NAM

## MAI THI NON, a School Girl and a Heroine

FOR a month now, the inhabitants of Ben Luc and Thu Thau (North Long An) have been passionately discussing and glorifying the daring deeds of Mai Thi Non, a school girl within her teens who had blown up in broad daylight the Ben Luc police station with a delayed action mine, exacting its enemy casualties.

Not like others, her attack had to be made within thirty minutes, from 8 to 8.30 a.m. on June 4, 1969.

Twice she was checked by the enemy. The third time, she was held up by a guard despite her skillful disguise. While arguing with him with her mine near exploding time she past through the door to rush to the police station. The alarm was sounded; policemen were close on her heels but the engine was still in its place. A deafening explosion was heard, and 11 men were killed, including a sub-lieutenant and an adjutant.

Mai Thi Non was seriously wounded, both her arms and one of her legs were broken. To

all threats of torture she said, "Wiping out wicked things is a duty of all patriots. I'm happy I've been able to fulfill it."

They now tried to coax a confession from her, but she summoned up her last strength to cry out, "You are wasting your time questioning me, what I still want is to kill all traitors to the country" and died.

Her story is now known not only among the Ben Luc people but has spread to members of the puppet army and administration who cannot help admiring her.

The example of revolutionary heroism set by the dauntless girl greatly inspires the Liberation armed forces units and mass organizations in North Long An who are now holding discussions on this theme.

She has been posthumously awarded the title "Indomitable Heroine" and a Liberation Order, first class, by the South Viet Nam NFL Command and the Liberation Women's Union.

## New Polyclinic Commissioned

A new polyclinic was inaugurated in the liberated zone of South Viet Nam on August 18.

The hospital, which includes the surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, eye, ear-nose-throat, and dental departments, about 100 surgical operations, radiography, and pharmaceutical sections, was dedicated by Dr. Xim Duong.

Since it started functioning before inauguration, the hospital has successfully handled about 100 surgical operations, mostly on civilian victims of US-puppet bombs and shells.

## Medicare Develops in Can Tho

MEDICARE has made good progress in the liberated areas of Can Tho province. Medical stations and mobile clinics have been built in many villages in Long My, Mon and Ke Sach districts.

The medical teams are operating in areas bordering the enemy territory. In the months of this year, over 15,000 people in the said districts received medical attention, while 15,000 others were inoculated.

Production of medicines and training of medical workers have received special attention from the local revolutionary authorities.

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This gun barrel taken from a US tank will be used to prop up a shelter against enemy artillery

## CHANGE IN SAIGON

## Variation on an Old Theme

(Continued from page 8)

Third, the scrapping of Huong is an obvious proof of the Nixon administration's persistent effort to implement neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. There is no need to demonstrate the utterly bellicose nature of Thieu-Ky completely sold out to the US imperialists. "War is their raison d'etre," commented an American columnist. But for Nixon and the US ruling circles at present, they are peddling peace and juggling with the people. Why then does Nixon get Nguyen Van Thieu to establish a military administration in Saigon? Can Nixon restore peace in South Viet Nam with the help of fire-eating militarists who were massacring the

South Vietnamese people, persecuting students, intellectuals, even religious believers, as Thieu-Ky-Khiem, the mercenaries who have served three imperialist masters and adopted Diem as their father? How ill-advised of Mr. Nixon!

THOSE are the three obvious angles for the withdrawal of all American and satellite troops, the overthrow of the bellicose and stubborn puppet administration, an end to the war and the establishment of a cabinet ready to start discussions with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

US failure is a forgone conclusion. The Yankees will have to quit South Viet Nam and the puppet admin-

istration will completely collapse. That process, however, is not a smooth one. Anarchy, strife, mutual liquidation are inherent features of the puppet administration. The latter's doom is sealed whatever the help extended by the US aggressors.

This will further inspire the South Vietnamese people to militate for the withdrawal of all American and satellite troops, the overthrow of the bellicose and stubborn puppet administration, an end to the war and the establishment of a cabinet ready to start discussions with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

## Who Is Tran Thien Khiem?

AN ex-officer of the auxiliary forces in the service of French colonialists during the first patriotic Resistance of the Vietnamese people (1945-1954) and a former high-ranking officer, one of the favourites of the Court of Ngo Dinh Diem of whom he prided himself on being the "father son" following the failure of the Nov. 1964 coup d'etat (failure to which he had much contributed by flying to the rescue of the dictator with his division station in the Mekong Delta), Tran Thien Khiem was also a faithful member of the Can Lao Party founded by Ngo Dinh Nhu. To adapt himself to circumstances better, he abjured his Buddhist faith and was about to get his Christian baptism when, at the instigation of Cabot

Lodge, then US ambassador to Saigon, Washington decided to get rid of Diem who was in its way. Khiem then turned his coat and took part in the 1964 coup d'etat which made away with the Ngo brothers. Khiem whom Ngo Dinh Diem, hard pressed, chose to call on, had, it was said, let his former "King" be murdered to secure his own future. As a reward, the regicide-parasite was allowed to join a triumvirate which ruled over Saigon for some time in 1964, and was promoted to a 4-star general.

Ousted in his turn, and sent abroad as ambassador to the US then to Taiwan, he re-emerged himself upon the resurgence of his accomplice Nguyen Van Thieu, favoured by the Americans, brought into the cabinet of Huong whom he hustled out little by little with Thieu's backing, he now becomes the 3rd horse of the military troika, tied to the US war chariot in the hope of strengthening his position in the marriage.

According to Western news agencies, leaders of several political factions, some of whom are members of a reactionary Alliance set up by Thieu, have declared non participation in Khiem's "government."

The Buddhists have expressed their reserve over this replacement. Several other personalities have also refused cooperation with Khiem.

# Military Operations

**Da Nang Front:** Successful Attacks against 2 US Marine Regiment HQ's: 700 GI's and 12 Cannons Put out of Action and 10 Aircraft Downed on Aug. 19.

**Saigon Front:** US Heavy Losses in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Provinces: 2,800 US and Puppet Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21.

**Mekong Delta:** 3 Enemy Companies Wiped Out in 2 Days in Ben Tre Province and 800 US and Puppet Soldiers Put out of Action in Ca Mau in 6 Days.

## Enemy Losses in Various Regions:

— Quang Tri-Thua Thien: 2,500 Men Put out of Action, 38 Aircraft Downed, 70 Vehicles and 40 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 1 and Aug. 15.

— Central Trung Bo: 4,000 Adverse Casualties Listed, 26 Aircraft Downed, 172 Vehicles, 12 Cannons and 17 Logistic Depots Destroyed between Aug. 7 and Aug. 17.

— Southern Trung Bo: 1,000 Enemy Troops Put out of Action between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

THE PLAF offensives since August 11-12 continue unabated especially in the Da Nang and Saigon sectors.

**Da Nang sector:** Two regiment HQ's (1st and 5th Regiments) of the US First Marine Division which came under attack on the night of Aug. 18 suffered 250 GI's wiped out, including a colonel and 20 junior officers, 12 heavy guns destroyed and 50 cannons burnt down. Next day, a company of the 10th Light Infantry Brigade was destroyed in the Que Son area where, between

Aug. 18 and Aug. 20, this Brigade suffered 300 casualties, lost 10 planes and helicopters shot down and 2 cannons destroyed.

Further Southeast, in Quang Ngai province, a US encampment was attacked and decimated Aug. 22 and some 100 puppet soldiers were knocked out in separate engagements around the provincial capital at dawn Aug. 17.

Further South, shellings were made on enemy positions in Qui Nhon (270 km from Da Nang) on the night of Aug. 19 and in

Cam Ranh on the night of Aug. 17 when some 100 South Korean casualties were reported.

All told, in the provinces stretching between Da Nang and Nha Trang constituting Central Trung Bo, in the 10-day period ending Aug. 19, the US-puppet toll was: 4,000, a battalion and 4 companies written off the musterroll, 26 aircraft shot down and 12 heavy guns and 172 vehicles destroyed.

On the Saigon front, the PLAF continue to win substantial successes in the provinces of Binh Long and Tay Ninh, respectively North

and Northwest of Saigon where, between Aug. 15 and Aug. 21, 2,600 adverse troops were put out of action, 24 aircraft cut down and 164 military vehicles wrecked.

On Aug. 20, a US armoured column intercepted between Chon Thanh and Hoa Quan suffered losses including 69 vehicles, 200 men and 8 choppers. This was the 3rd feat of the PLAF in the sector of Chon Thanh in 8 days. Total battle count during these 3 engagements: 217 vehicles including 97 tanks and armoured cars blasted out of use, 800 GI's disabled, and 37 choppers brought down.

Further North, near Loc Ninh, an enemy encampment was also decimated Aug. 20, 3 US and puppet companies, 20 enemy troops and 15 tanks and armoured cars and 4 heavy mortars wiped out.

In Tay Ninh province, 400 adverse casualties were listed and 8 aircraft shot down between Aug. 19 and Aug. 21. South of the provincial capital, The hunt for enemy river craft between Aug. 11 and Aug. 21 yielded 48 vessels sunk or burnt and some 1,000 men killed or wounded.

In other theatres of operation, let's mention:

— A raid on the HQ of the 3rd Brigade, US 101st Airborne, at Ta Tech near A Bia, Southwest of Hue, on Aug. 24, exacting several hundred casualties; downing of a huge transport plane by guerrillas in this area on Aug. 19, causing the death of some 50 adverse soldiers; shelling of the US Sa Mau base South of the DMZ on Aug. 20, dis-

abling 150 GI's. Total enemy losses in South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien: 2,500 men including 2,000 GI's and 70 vehicles put out of action, 35 aircraft shot down and 40 military depots destroyed.

— In the Western Highlands, the destruction on Aug. 17 of 3 US road convoys of Quang Tri and Thua Thien: 2,500 men including 2,000 GI's and 70 vehicles put out of action, 35 aircraft shot down and 40 military depots destroyed.

— In Southern Trung Bo formed by the provinces Southwest of Nha Trang, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15, some 1,000 adverse troops were wiped out. The biggest results were achieved on Aug. 12 at Song Mao (200 km East-Northeast of Saigon) where the CP of the puppet 4th Regiment was blotted out and 450 enemy casualties listed, and on Aug. 14 near Phan Thiet where 170 US troops were knocked out and 15 vehicles destroyed in an ambush.

In the Mekong Delta, between Aug. 11 and Aug. 16, the PLAF of Ben Tre province inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy: 700 men and 4 cannons knocked out of action and 2 choppers destroyed. On Aug. 17 and Aug. 21, 3 puppet companies were all so struck out of the charge in this sector.

In the Southernmost sector, in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, 500 US puppets were killed, 500 US troops sent to the bottom and 3 helicopters crashed by regional troops between Aug. 11 and Aug. 15.

THE puppet Tran Van Huong government fell after less than one year and a half of antics on the Saigon political stage, and Nguyen Van Thieu has entrusted a collaborator of his, Tran Thien Khiet, to form a new one. However, the differences within the puppet administration remain unsolved because the situation is far from being stabilized. Things are getting from bad to worse. "A dangerous vacuum is being created and nobody knows where this confusion will lead to," complained a Saigon official.

Is the situation of the puppet administration confused?

No, it is as clear as ever. The puppet administration is heading for collapse!

First, this crisis spells out US failure in the use of stopgap over the past eighteen months to consolidate and broaden the puppet regime.

Under the impact of the simultaneous offensives, and uprisings by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people the US aggressors put

in power militarists to achieve the "Americanization" of their war against South Viet Nam. But after Tet 1968 the Yankees had to fall back on the strategic defensive. The militarists came under a running and no brutality could help their impotence.

As the puppet administration faced a complete collapse, the Americans broadened its ranks by gathering more hirelings and tried to compose their internal disputes by bringing in the civilian Tran Van Huong clique.

Nevertheless, after fourteen months of this experiment the cranky chariot of war has not fared any better. The wrangles have embittered. The puppet image has further dimmed because Thieu and Huong busy with their intrigues have fallen far short of Nixon's expectations in the "de-Americanization" of the war. The latter has been forced to let Thieu out Huong, a nursing of a new cabinet. In their predicament the US imperialists

## CHANGE IN SAIGON

## CHANGE IN SAIGON

have had to revert to "a new variation on an old theme." The choice of militarists, who failed to "Americanize" the war, to "de-Americanize" it is clear evidence of Nixon's dilemma.

Second, the change points to Nixon's failure to heed up Nguyen Van Thieu's army. Nixon has realized that, with a thoroughly unpopular puppet administration and an inefficient heterogeneous army though shored up by 500,000 GIs, he cannot impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. For this calls for the rallying of forces around a ringleader able to command warring factions and the establishment of a political

organization serving as a prop to the puppet administration. Well, Nixon has lavished praise on Thieu as one of the few brilliant statesmen of the world today. He came to Saigon and called on Thieu to create a political party in support of the government. All this was meant to consolidate the puppet administration, widen its political base and set up a stabilized reactionary system to oppose all sensible political solutions to the problems in South Viet Nam and achieve US neo-colonialism there. Now this dream has been shattered. Anarchy sets in. Divergent are rife. The American imperialists, however, go

against this trend of evolution of the puppet administration: "In the US failure in South Viet Nam the rift within it is a lackey's the dominant feature." This antagonism is sharper than ever, swelling the ranks of Thieu's enemies. Nguyen Cao Ky, Tran Van Huong and his air followers, together with hundreds of officers and politicians eliminated or put into jail will certainly react. As the conflicts grow Nguyen Van Thieu will become more seriously alienated. The disavowal of Huong does not bring the puppets together but triggers a new scramble.

(Continued page 7)

LONG LIVE PEACEFUL, REUNIFIED, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS VIET NAM